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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 IO-14 EUR-12 ARA-14
/060 W
----------072697 130951Z /14
O R 121530Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6545

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FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: -
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

SUMMARY: ZAMBIA CALLS ON THE UNITED STATES TO USE ITS POWER TO URGE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH TO DESIST FROM BOMBING ZAMBIAN TOWNS. THE ZAMBIAN LEADER DISCLOSES DEATHS ALLEGEDLY RESULTING FROM RHODESIA'S AIR RAID ON A ZAMBIAN BORDER TOWN, AND CLAIMS RHODESIANS USED NAPALM BOMBS. HE ALSO JOINS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING ATTACK ON THE WESTERN PRESS FOR "LIES" ABOUT THE CURFEW AND BLACKOUT IMPOSED BY HIM. RHODESIAN SABOTAGE SQUAD ENTERS ZAMBIA, CLAIMS THE ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT FORMER OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER PRAISES PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S
TOLERANCE WITH ADVERSARIES.

THESE ARE THE SUBJECTS MAKING HEADLINES HERE. DETAILS OF THESE AND OTHER RELATED DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOW BELOW.

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ADDRESSING A MASS RALLY HERE YESTERDAY, PRESIDENT KAUNDA CALLED ON THE UNITED STATES SPECIFICALLY, AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS, TO STOP RHODESIA FROM BOMBING ZAMBIAN TOWNS BEFORE IT PROVOKES RETALIATORY STEPS FROM ZAMBIA.

THE ZAMBIAN LEADER SAID ON AUGUST 31, THREE ZAMBIAN SOLDIERS WERE KILLED, THREE OTHERS INJURED AND TWO CIVILIANS WERE ALSO INJURED

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IN THE ALLEGED AIR ATTACK ON THE ZAMBIAN BORDER TOWN OF FEIRA
BY RHODESIA. HE CLAIMED THE RHODESIANS USED NAPALM BOMBS.

DR. KAUNDA, WHO BROKE DOWN AND WEPT AT ONE POINT, SAID
ZAMBIA MANUFACTURED NAPALM BOMBS LOCALLY, AND IF HE WANTED
BE COULD HAVE ORDERED THE AIR FORCE TO BOMB TOWNS INSIDE RHODESIA.

HE SAID HE, HOWEVER, HAD "A PROBLEM OF CONSCIENCE" AND THIS WAS WHY
HE HAD NOT ISSUED SUCH INSTRUCTIONS BECAUSE THE RESULT WOULD HAVE
BEEN GREAT LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE IN ZIMBABWE.

THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE THOUSANDS OF LUSAKA RESIDENTS WHO TURNED OUT
TO
HEAR HIM SPEAK THAT A 12-MAN SABOTAGE TEAM FROM RHODESIA HAS BEEN
INFILTRATED INTO ZAMBIA TO HIT AT VITAL INSTALLATIONS AND CAUSE
GENERAL
HAVOC AND CONFUSION.

HE CLAIMED THAT THE 12 RHODESIAN SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED TO
STRIKE AT BRIDGES, POWER PLANTS, POST OFFICES, ARMY AND POLICE
POSTS AND OTHER PLACES VITAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY.

HE URGED ZAMBIANS TO BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR THESE MEN WHO HE SAID
WOULD BE MOVING IN ONES AND TWOS.

THE ZAMBIAN LEADER ALSO UNLEASHED AN ATTACK ON THE WESTERN PRESS
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WHICH HE ACCUSED OF SPREADING FALSE REPORTS ABOUT THE INTENTIONS
BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED CURFEW AND BLACK OUT IN FOUR MAIN
CENTERS OF ZAMBIA.

TO ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CURFEW AND BLACKOUT WERE MEANT TO GIVE
COVER TO RUSSIAN AND CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS AND SOLDIERS TO COME
IN, HE REPLIED THAT IF HE WANTED TO CALL IN THE RUSSIANS, THE
CUBANS OR ANY ONE ELSE, HE WOULD DO IT "IN BROAD DAY LIGHT" AND
WOULD TELL THE PRESS TO GO AND "SEE THEM ARRIVING AT THE AIRPORT."

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HE ALSO REFUTED THE CHARGE THAT THE CURFEW AND BLACKOUT WERE AIMED AT GIVING THE UNIP GOVERNMENT GROUNDS TO ROUND UP POLITICAL DISSIDENTS. "ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN ZAMBIA HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR, AND THEIR NAMES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, REPORTS IN THE TWO NATIONAL DAILIES SAY FORMER LEADER OF THE OUTLAWED UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY (UPP), SIMON KAPWEPWE, HAS PRAISED PRESIDENT KAUNDA FOR HIS TOLERANCE WITH HIS ADVERSARIES.

BOTH THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA AND THE ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL REPORT THAT MR. KAPWEPWE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN THE COPPERBELT TOWN OF KITWE: "IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES PEOPLE DO NOT OPPOSE. THOSE WHO DO HAVE THEIR HEADS CHOPPED OFF."

MR. KAPWEPWE, WHO REJOINED THE RULING UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (UNIP) LAST WEEK AFTER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD OUTSIDE THE PARTY, SAID HE HAD COME BACK TO UNIP FOR ONLY ONE REASON, THAT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

CALLING ON ALL HIS FORMER FOLLOWERS TO REJOIN UNIP, THE EX-UPP LEADER IS REPORTED AS SAYING HE HAS NOT ASKED FOR ANY POSITION IN EITHER THE PARTY OR GOVERNMENT,

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ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WOULD "RETURN TO TOWN IF ASKED TO DO SOME DUTIES FOR THE NATION." MR. KAPWEPWE NOW LIVES IN CHINSALI, HIS HOME TOWN IN THE COUNTRY'S NORTHERN PROVINCE, WHERE HE IS A FARMER.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE COMEBACK OF MR. KAPWEPWE HAS GENERALLY BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE PEOPLE HERE.

COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S REMARKS AT THE RALLY, THE MAIL SAYS: "SINCE RHODESIA HAS BEEN SO MUCH IN THE CLUTCHES OF IMPERIALIST
S,
AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON RHODESIA IN WHICH BLACKS WOULD LOSE THEIR LIVES

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WOULD BE GOOD PROPAGANDA FOR SMITH AGAINST ZAMBIA."

SMITH, CLAIMS THE MAIL, HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR A REASON TO
"PROVOKE ZAMBIA INTO A FIT OF RAGE TO THE EXTENT ZAMBIA HITS
THE RACISTS HARD AND IN THE PROCESS THE BLACKS ARE KILLED."

"PRESIDENT KAUNDA MADE THIS POINT VERY CLEAR THAT THIS IS THE
DILEMMA HE FACES. HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE AMERICANS
CAN PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ALL THIS BY IMPRESSING UPON
SMITH AND HIS MASTERS IN PRETORIA THAT THEY CANNOT BE SURE OF WINNING
,"
THE MAIL EDITORIAL SAYS.

THE TIMES EDITORIAL WRITES THAT IT HAD BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME
NOW THAT THE RHODESIANS HAVE BEEN USING DEFOLIANTS AND NAPALM
IN THEIR WAR AGAINST THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF ZIMBABWE.

ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, THEIR USE OF NAPALM AGAINST ZAMBIA IS NOT
SO SURPRISING CONSIDERING HOW "DESPERATE THEY ARE."

THE PAPER NOTES THAT THE DILEMMA OF CONSCIENCE ARTICULATED
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BY DR. KAUNDA IS REAL ENOUGH: "YET THE TIME MUST COME FOR ZAMBIA
TO MAKE A FINAL STAND. OBVIOUSLY THERE IS A BREAKING POINT AND FOR
US IT IS DANGEROUSLY NEAR," SAYS THE TIMES.

"WHEN ZAMBIA TURNS THE TABLES, THE WESTERN POWERS, WHO HAVE HELPED
TO ARM SMITH AND SOME OF WHOSE CITIZENS ARE WORKING IN HIS ARMY
TO PERFECT THE USE OF NAPALM FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE VIETNAM WA
R,
WILL FACE THEIR OWN DILEMMA OF CONSCIENCE," THE TIMES EDITORIAL
OBSERVES. ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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